CLAIM AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application or previous response to office action:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ **A method** for producing a fuel injection nozzle for an internal combustion engine, **said method** comprising ~~the steps of~~:

- providing a nozzle body ~~in which~~ **having** a valve needle with a stop **[[is]]** displaceably disposed **therein**,

- providing a nozzle holder ~~in which~~ **having** a pressure pin **[[is]]** displaceably disposed **therein**, and

- providing a disk-shaped stop element in a region between the nozzle body and the nozzle holder, **said stop element having a fuel inlet bore therein,**

- axially tensioning the nozzle body and the nozzle holder against one another **[[in]]** such ~~a way~~ that the stop element forms a first sealing surface ~~which bears~~ **bearing** on a nozzle holder section, and a second sealing surface ~~which bears~~ **bearing** on a nozzle body section, and

- producing at least one cutout in the two sealing surfaces in a single manufacturing operation.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ **A method** according to Claim 1, wherein the cutout is **a** punched, drilled ~~and/or~~ **or** stamped **cutout**.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ **A method** according to Claim 1, wherein the cutout extends all the way through the stop element from the first to the second sealing surface.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ **A method** according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of deepening the cutout by a predetermined axial depth in the first and the second sealing ~~surface~~ **surfaces**.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ **A method** according to Claim 1, wherein the cutout has a circular, oval or polygonal shape.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ **A method** according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of providing the cutout in **[[the]] an** edge region of the stop element.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~Fuel~~ **A fuel** injection nozzle for an internal combustion engine, **said nozzle** comprising:

- a nozzle body ~~in which~~ **having** a valve needle with a stop **[[is]]** displaceably disposed **therein**,

- a nozzle holder ~~in which~~ **having** a pressure pin **[[is]]** displaceably disposed **therein**, and

- a disk-shaped stop element ~~which is~~ provided in a region between the nozzle body and the nozzle holder, **said stop element having a fuel inlet bore therein,** wherein

- the nozzle body and the nozzle holder ~~being~~ **are** axially tensioned against one another **[[in]]** such ~~a way~~ that the stop element forms a first sealing surface ~~which bears~~ **bearing** on a nozzle holder section, and a second sealing surface ~~which bears~~ **bearing** on a nozzle body section, wherein the first and the second sealing surfaces each incorporate at least one cutout for ~~the purpose of~~ increasing the contact pressure of the sealing surfaces, and ~~wherein~~ the ~~bilateral~~ cutouts being implemented evenly opposite one another in the sealing surfaces.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~Fuel~~ **A fuel** injection nozzle according to Claim 7, wherein the cutout extends all the way through the stop element from the first to the second sealing ~~surface~~ **surfaces**.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~Fuel~~ **A fuel** injection nozzle according to Claim 7, wherein the cutout is deepened by a predetermined axial depth in the first and the second sealing surface.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~Fuel~~ **A fuel** injection nozzle according to Claim 7, wherein the cutout has a circular, oval or polygonal shape.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~Fuel~~ **A fuel** injection nozzle according to Claim 7, wherein the cutout is provided in **[[the]] an** edge region of the stop element.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ **A method** for manufacturing a fuel injection nozzle for an internal combustion engine, **said method** comprising ~~the steps of~~:

- **displaceably** disposing a valve needle with a stop ~~displaceably~~ within a nozzle body,

- **displaceably** disposing a pressure pin ~~displaceably~~ within a nozzle holder,

- providing a disk-shaped stop element in a region between the nozzle body and the nozzle holder, **said stop element having a fuel inlet bore therein,**

- axially tensioning the nozzle body and the nozzle holder against one another **[[in]]** such ~~a way~~ that the stop element forms a first sealing surface ~~which bears~~ **bearing** on a nozzle holder section, and a second sealing surface ~~which bears~~ **bearing** on a nozzle body section, and

- producing at least one cutout in the two sealing surfaces in a single manufacturing operation.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ **A method** according to Claim 12, wherein the cutout is **a** punched, drilled ~~and/or~~ **or** stamped **cutout**.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ **A method** according to Claim 12, wherein the cutout extends all the way through the stop element from the first to the second sealing surface.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ **A method** according to Claim 12, further comprising the step of deepening the cutout by a predetermined axial depth in the first and the second sealing ~~surface~~ **surfaces**.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ **A method** according to Claim 12, wherein the cutout has a circular, oval or polygonal shape.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ **A method** according to Claim 12, further comprising the step of providing **[[the]] an** cutout in the edge region of the stop element.